GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:193
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2011
QUACKS AND UNREGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS
Mandal Shri Mangani Lal;Virendra Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of quacks and unregistered medical practitioners operating, particularly in the rural and remote areas across the country;

(b) whether the Government has set up any mechanism to identify and check the activities of such unqualified medical practitioners in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of such unqualified medical practitioners detected and punished during each of the last three years and the current year so far, State/UT-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposes a new legislation to make it mandatory for all the doctors to re-register with the medical boards every five years;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to provide proper medical facilities in rural areas so that the rural masses do not remain dependent on the unqualified and unregistered medical practitioners for treatments?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 193 FOR 12TH AUGUST, 2011

(a) to (c): So far as modern system of Allopathic Medicine is concerned, the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, prohibits a person other than a medical practitioner enrolled on a State Medical Register to practice medicine in the State. Punishment of imprisonment or a term which may extend to one year or with a fine which may extend to Rs.1,000/- or both is also prescribed. For Indian systems of medicine, Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970, provides that no person other than a practitioner of Indian medicine who possesses a recognized medical qualification and is enrolled on a State Register or the Central Register of Indian Medicine shall practice in Indian medicine in any State. Further, the Act provides that any person who acts in contravention of this provision shall be punished with imprisonment or a term which may extend to one year or with a fine which may extend to Rs. 1,000/- or with both. Action against the quacks and fake doctors is taken under the relevant act by the States from time to time and no data on the subject is maintained at the Central level.

(d) Yes.

(e) The proposal envisages re-registration of medical professionals to ensure their continuous professional development for promotion of quality in health care delivery system.

(f) The Central Government is strengthening the health care system in rural areas and has launched National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in April, 2005, specifically for this purpose. Since its inception, NRHM has made the following achievements:

Financial assistance is provided to States under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to engage doctors and specialists. As on 31.3.2011, 9432 doctors and 7063 specialists were engaged by States on contract basis.

Financial assistance is also provided under NRHM for engaging AYUSH doctors on contract basis and collocate them in PHCs/CHCs. As on 31.3.2011, 11,575 AYUSH doctors were engaged by the States.

Payment of incentives to doctors and specialists to reach in hard and difficult areas.

Multiskilling of doctors by training them in Life Saving Anesthesia Skills (LSAS) and Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric Care (CEOC).

Separately to compliment the initiatives being taken under NRHM by facilitating availability of medical professionals in the rural areas, the Central Government, in consultation with Medical Council of India, made the following amendments to its Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations:

(i) 50% reservation in Post Graduate Diploma Courses for Medical Officers in the Government service who have served for at least three years in remote and difficult areas; and

(ii) Incentive at the rate of 10% of the marks obtained for each year in service in remote or difficult areas upto the maximum of 30% of the marks obtained in the entrance test for admissions in Post Graduate Medical Courses.